

NEXT ISSUE
New quick-read
e-newsletter
format!

FCPS Earns Strong Report Card



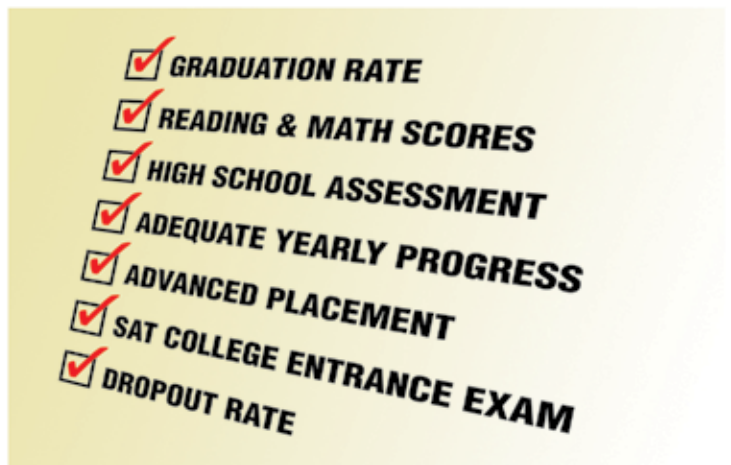
Just as students have to work hard to get good grades, so do schools and school systems. As Superintendent Linda Burgee shared recently with BOE candidates and local media, FCPS has recently received some very good reports:

- ✓ Our 96.36% graduation rate is Maryland's highest.
- ✓ Reading and math scores on the Maryland School Assessment are up, and we've substantially reduced achievement gaps for 2 of 3 low-performing sub-groups.
- ✓ Our latest High School Assessment results show outstanding gains among all groups of students.
- ✓ Last year FCPS was 1 of only 4 Maryland counties demonstrating Adequate Yearly Progress, the state's criterion for reaching federal No Child Left Behind targets.
- ✓ Embracing the challenge of college-level courses, our students took 4,477 Advanced Placement exams last May, 662 more than the year before.
- ✓ Once again, Frederick County outperformed the state and nation on the SAT college-entrance exam.
- ✓ For the 3rd straight year our dropout rate is the lowest in Maryland—0.78% compared to the state average of 3.66%

FCPS ranks the 8th largest and 5th fastest growing district in Maryland. On a per-pupil basis, Frederick County is the 10th wealthiest, 16th for student spending and a very impressive 2nd lowest for administrative costs.

More than half of our employees—2,745—hold teaching certificates. Of those, 7 out of 10 hold at least a Master's degree.

"The caliber of our schools, employees, partnerships and the education we provide is 'first class,'" says Dr. Burgee. Look for more examples below and in Accolades on page 3. ★



**First
Class** ★
STAFF

Thanks to you,
public education works
in Frederick County!

(L to R) FCPS Teacher of the Year **Mark Sunkel** was 1 of 7 statewide finalists for Maryland Teacher of the Year. Mr. Sunkel chairs the Linganore HS Science Department. **Michael Rohrer** at Monocacy MS is the Technology Education Association of Maryland's 2006 Outstanding Middle School Technology Education Teacher of Excellence. From fostering award-winning early childhood programs to engaging families in education through excellent online and other resources, **Shari Ostrow Scher** holds a well-deserved spot on the Daily Record's list of Maryland's top 100 women.



Can You Prevent the Flu?



With flu season approaching and talk of a future pandemic, FCPS offers precautions for staff and students.

As part of the Maryland Elementary School Influenza Project, FCPS is partnering with the Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) to provide free FluMist® clinics at **all of our elementary schools**. When Carroll County provided elementary flu clinics last year, they

reported significantly improved attendance among elementary, middle and high school students.

FluMist® nasal-spray is a flu vaccine for healthy individuals 5 to 49 years of age. With parental consent, **students ages 5-11** who have no contraindications can **receive the free vaccine at school**. **Helen Monk**, FCPS health specialist, explains that it “uses a weakened form of the flu virus to stimulate the immune system, which helps offer protection from the flu without causing a case of the flu.”

FCPS is also hosting public flu vaccine clinics for all ages, administered by the FCHD, at Governor TJ HS and Urbana HS on November 6: 11 AM-6 PM. Walk-ins are welcome. Fees, payable by cash or check, are: \$15 flu shot; \$17 FluMist® for ages 12-49; free FluMist® for ages 5-11.

The FCHD plans to add additional flu clinics in Brunswick, Emmitsburg and Thurmont. Check their Flu Hotline, 301-631-3035, or visit www.frederickhealth.org for times.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to stay healthy students need to get plenty of sleep and physical activity, drink water and eat nutritious food.

“This is good advice for all of us adults, too,” **Helen Monk** says. She encourages school-based staff to remind children to practice healthy habits.

See the CDC guide for schools: www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm

Finally, regarding preparation for pandemic/Avian flu, FCPS is partnering with a countywide team that includes the FCHD and several other agencies. Look for details in future issues of Inside FCPS.★

Help prevent the spread of germs and flu in our schools and work places. Please take these measures, and encourage students to do the same: ○

- Wash hands often with soap and water (15 to 20 seconds, or long enough to sing the “Happy Birthday” song twice).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or upper arms.
- Stay away from others when you are sick.
- Ask your doctor about getting an annual flu vaccine.

ASK THE SUPERINTENDENT



This section features questions to and answers from Superintendent **Dr. Linda Burgee**. Please send your questions for future issues to Dian.Nelson@fcps.org.

Q: How has FCPS responded to recent incidents of school violence across America?

A: Our hearts go out to the families of the victims. Recent tragic incidents reinforce the importance of crisis planning and school-security measures that FCPS has put in place over the last several years, and they serve as unfortunate reminders that we need to be vigilant and prepared when it comes to school safety and security. With each incident of school violence, we re-examine our security procedures to see if there are precautions we can take to avoid a similar tragedy in Frederick County. In fact, FCPS continually seeks ways to improve school security. For example, we installed additional security cameras and card-swipe building-entrance systems this year.

Q: Does FCPS provide emergency-preparedness training?

A: Yes, and this training is mandatory for critical staff at schools and central offices. We have scheduled three days again this November and December.

Q: How can we respond to families and others who have concerns about school safety?

A: Please let families know that we take school security very seriously and that every school has an emergency plan and staff training. Explain that we work closely with law enforcement on school-security issues, both in the development and implementation of emergency plans. Also, schools reinforce with our students the importance of reporting behavior or statements that may be of concern such as a student making a threat.

Q: What do we tell parents about our emergency plans?

A: Sharing all the details of our plans would compromise security measures, but we can speak to parents and our communities about general types of processes we have in place in case an emergency arises. In September, FCPS sent home with every student a flier on our school emergency preparedness procedures. It is online at <http://www.fcps.org/content/publications/SafetyFlyer.pdf>. We’ve also posted information on www.fcps.org designed to help parents and staff address school violence concerns with children.

Got school news to publicize?

Get the latest media contacts and PR tips at your FCPS computer! Visit <http://insidefcps>, select “Departments” and “Communication Services.”★

☆☆☆ ACCOLADES ☆☆☆

NATIONAL The US Department of Education honored only one Maryland school with a visit to recognize achievement gains. This year's statewide honoree: **Brunswick ES** for substantial gains in reading and math, significantly reducing achievement gaps and excellent family- and community-involvement strategies.

TECHNOLOGY All 5 nominees that the FCPS Office of Career & Technology Education submitted for Technology Education Association of Maryland awards have won:

- **Oakdale MS**—Outstanding Middle School Technology Education Program of Excellence
- **Michael Rohrer** at Monocacy MS—2006 Outstanding Middle School Technology Education Teacher of Excellence (see photo, page 1)
- **Paul Hoyt** at Tuscarora HS and **Norman McGaughey** at Oakdale MS—Distinguished Technology Education Teacher awards
- Bechtel Engineering Corporation—2006 Technology Education Advocacy Award

TEACHING FCPS Teacher of the Year and chair of the Linganore HS Science Department **Mark Sunkel** was 1 of 7 finalists for Maryland Teacher of the Year (see photo, page 1).

HISTORY Lincoln Elementary's "Roots from Our Past Reach to the Future" project won a 2006 Maryland African-American Heritage Preservation Award. Kudos to FCPS Minority Achievement Coordinator **Maria Whittemore**, who wrote the winning nomination, **BOE** members who unanimously approved restoration of the school's name, Communication Services staff—especially Video Production Specialist **Susan Constable**, who created an excellent documentary capturing the school's unique history, Principal **Ann Reeve**, and all FCPS staff who partnered with the Lincoln Alumni Association in this award-winning project.

CHARACTER On behalf of **FCPS**, Dr. Linda Burgee accepted this year's Vision of Character Award. Also winning awards were students from our **Career & Technology Center**, **Crestwood MS**, **Walkerville HS** and **West Frederick MS**. The Character Education Institute named Ballenger Creek ES counselor **Beth Myers** a Role Model of Character in Frederick County.

MAINTENANCE June's Maintenance Employee of the Month was TJ Cluster HVACR mechanic **Stephen Treannelli**. Honors for August and September go to Hayward Cluster electrician **Jason Wilson** and Middletown Cluster HVACR mechanic **Kevin Lewis**.

HIGH PRAISE Dr. Joseph Renzulli commends students and staff at **New Market MS** & **TJ MS** who created an outstanding DVD about the FCPS Renzulli program. He used it in his class at the University of Connecticut, and students said it was "the best explanation of the [Renzulli] model that they have seen!" Kudos to project coordinators **Tony Bollino**, **Kerri Cole**, **Melanie Laffer** and **Jenny Powell** and to the Renzulli teachers who provided footage for the DVD.

PARTNERSHIP FCPS and Eliminating Achievement Gaps, Inc. renewed a partnership to engage the community in eliminating achievement gaps for local African-American students. Superintendent **Linda Burgee** and Minority Achievement Coordinator **Maria Whittemore** attended the partnership signing.

SAFE DRIVING A special program funded by the Frederick County Highway Safety Task Force and State Farm Insurance agent Tim Winter allowed high school students to experience "fatal-vision goggles" that simulate the impaired vision that drivers experience under the influence. Adventure Park USA hosted students and Frederick, Brunswick, county and state police officers who helped administer field-sobriety tests and a go-cart obstacle course. Safe and Drug-Free Schools facilitator **Linda Gouker** coordinated the project to teach students the importance of remaining alcohol and drug free when driving.

1ST CLASS Food Service Officer Cheri Dattoli commends the 300 **Food Service workers** who attended this year's orientation at Middletown High.

Staff Support

Thanks to the sponsors and congrats to the winners of door prizes at Summer Institute 2006:

Books Are Fun	Peggy Kaplan, Mary Jo Richmond, Heather Stitely, Julie Wood
Carriage House	Rick Brainerd
Dell Computers	Jenn Covington, Jason Lininger
FCAEOP	Sherrie Hohnke, Karen Howser, Karen Kroll, James Ledwell, Jason Rubeling
Le Savon	Anne Rhodes
Maryland Ensemble Theatre	Rosemary Stevens
Helen Monk (gift basket)	Sara Nuckolls
New Lyncean Studio of Frederick	Karen Yoder
Rebecca Pearl	Stephanie Bucher
Shamrock Restaurant	Thomas Brown
Sleep Inn—Emmitsburg	Elizabeth St. John
Stanley Salon	Johanna Burdette

Student Support

Our Community Agency School Services (CASS) coordinators received more than \$4,000 from the Frederick County Bar Association to provide school supplies for children in need. In addition, J.P. Morgan staff collected and donated 12,000+ school supply items for CASS to distribute.★



New Faces in Key Places

Sandra Doggett, formerly Urbana HS media specialist, is the new FCPS Media Services supervisor.

NEWS TO USE

Parking FCPS must replace the 7630 Hayward Road parking lot, now that Rentals Unlimited has purchased that property. This fall, we are installing a 180-car parking lot between 7630 Hayward and 33 Thomas Johnson Drive. FCPS will modify the Hayward building to make back doors major entrances. Staff will need to reschedule large meetings planned for the Hayward Complex in 2007—including any requiring use of the Staff Development Center—to other locations with better parking.

Save a Life The American Red Cross will visit FCPS at 7630 Hayward Road, Tuesday, November 28 from 9-3. To give blood, appointments are recommended but not required: 1-800 GIVE LIFE.

Computer Access City middle and high schools can benefit from a new FCPS partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Frederick to provide use of the William O. Lee Jr. Computer Learning Center at 600 N. Bentz Street for parents during the school day and for students grades 6-12 after school. The Center provides high-speed Internet access plus homework help, teacher-guided assistance, career information and more: 301-662-0294.

Volunteerism This year's Spirit of Community Awards program has an October 31 deadline for middle and high school principals to honor exceptional students for volunteer service in their communities. If you know students worthy of this award, encourage them to submit an application soon. Apps and further info are online: www.prudential.com/spirit.

Public Art "Shared Vision: Public Art for Community Transformation" invites staff to a November 4 free Educator Summit from 9-4 at the Cultural Arts Center, 15 W. Patrick St., Frederick. Learn how the Community Bridge and The Dreaming projects engage the public. Brainstorm with other teachers of all levels to devise lesson plans that can weave your contribution into a work that will be a Frederick landmark for decades. Reserve space by October 23: Teresa@TheDreaming.info, 301-696-2839, www.TheDreaming.info.

Conservation Prize Because the Maryland Energy Administration recognized the success of our Save 5% energy-conservation program with a \$2,000 award, FCPS is able to offer four \$500 prizes for energy conservation. One will recognize the overall ability and effectiveness of a building's "energy emissary" in bringing about an awareness of energy conservation. The other three include a poster contest to determine an elementary winner, a multimedia presentation to determine a middle school winner, and a countywide Science and Engineering Fair entry on any energy-related theme to determine a high school winner. For contest guidelines, contact Alem.Zewoldai@fcps.org



FCPS FACTOID

It's official: FCPS enrollment is 40,315—574 students more than last year. How does the size of FCPS compare with other school districts state- and nationwide?

A. Six Maryland school districts are among the nation's 100 largest school systems. From largest to smallest on the list, they are Montgomery (145,600+ students), Prince George's, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Anne Arundel and Howard (47,800+).



Tune to FCPS TV for school news:

School Talk – 2:30 & 8:30 PM

Student Voice – 4 PM*, 10 AM & 8 PM
Sat. & Sun.

Newsbreak – 9:30*, 10:30 & 11:30 AM
12:30, 4:30, 5:30, 8*, 9:30 & 10:30 PM

Community Partners – 10 AM & 7 PM*

Health Matters – 11 AM & 9 PM

BOE Meetings – Wednesdays: 6 PM (live)
Calendar Handbook lists meeting dates
Re-broadcast the following evening

Bulletin Board – Menus, closing info, etc.
To submit news, fax: 301-696-6958 or email Dian.Nelson@fcps.org.

Classic Arts – 11 PM to 5 AM*
11 PM to 10 AM Sat. & Sun.
6 to 8 PM Sunday

Public Education Today – 7:30 PM Mon.–Sat.

**weekdays only*

www.fcps.org/cable18.htm

Schedules are subject to change

November 6: Teacher Work Day, Schools Closed for Students

November 7: Election Day, Schools Closed

November 12-18: American Education Week

**November 22 & December 14: Teacher Work Session,
2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students**

November 23-24: Thanksgiving Break

December 22-January 1: Winter Break

Inside FCPS is produced by the
FCPS Communication Services Division.

Your news, ideas and suggestions are welcome.
Please fax 301-696-6958. Call 301-696-6900.
Email Dian.Nelson@fcps.org. Or courier to the
Communications Office, 115 E. Church Street.



The Frederick County Public Schools does not discriminate in admissions, access, treatment, or employment in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability. For more information, call 301-696-6851.